



Jackson Mountains Herd Management Area Humboldt County, Nevada

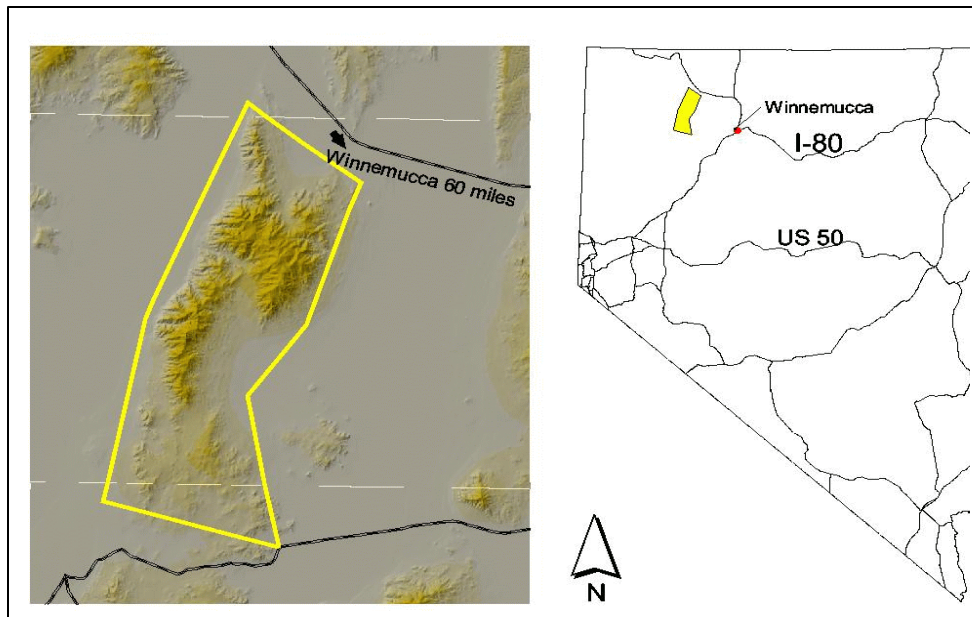


Location/Habitat

The Jackson Mountains Herd Management Area (HMA) is located in central Humboldt County, approximately 60 miles northwest of Winnemucca, Nevada. The area is bordered on the west by the Black Rock Desert, on the east by Desert Valley, on the north by State Highway 140 and the Quinn River, and on the south by the Union Pacific Railroad. The elevation ranges from 8,923 feet at King Lear Peak to approximately 4,000 feet along the valley floors. The area is approximately 283,000 acres in size, with 274,920 acres of public land and 8,080 acres of private land.

The Jackson Mountains HMA encompasses most of the Jackson mountain range. The HMA is located within parts of six livestock grazing allotments: Jackson Mountains, Desert Valley, Bottle Creek, Deer Creek, Happy Creek, and Wilder-Quinn. The largest allotment, and the one which contains the most wild horses, is the Jackson Mountains allotment. A large portion of the North and South Jackson Mountains Wilderness Areas are located within the HMA. The horses are concentrated in the southern half of the allotment south of Navajo Peak. The Desert Valley allotment contains no wild horses. Horses captured in a fall 1997 gather were from the Jackson Mountains, Happy Creek and Deer Creek allotments.

The HMA also provides habitat for domestic livestock, mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, chukar partridge and various species of birds, rodents and reptiles. Wildlife and wild horses inhabit the area year round. Livestock use the area in spring and summer.



Mines are present in the area but are largely inactive at this time. Recreational use of the area includes hunting, fishing, rockhounding, hiking and dispersed camping. Two Wilderness Areas (Was) are partially located within the HMA, the North Jackson and South Jackson Mountains. The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area is also partially within this HMA.

Vegetation

The vegetative composition of the area includes big sagebrush, rabbitbrush, juniper, quaking aspen, serviceberry, snowberry, oceanspray, miscellaneous annual forbs, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Idaho fescue at the higher elevations. Shadscale, greasewood, bud sage, horsebrush, clasping pepperweed, seepweed, cheat grass, and squirreltail are predominate at lower elevations.

The primary forage species for wild horses are the perennial grasses: bluegrass, wheatgrass, fescue and squirreltail.

Herd Description

The appropriate management level (AML) for wild horses in the HMA is managed in a range from 130 to 217 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain this population level. Horses within the HMA are descendants of ranch horses that either escaped or were released into the area. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown, black or sorrel color pattern.

